

JAN 23 2008

001/004

60,469-403 PUS1
PA-000.04416-US-A**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Richard J. Ericson
Serial Number: 10/684,171
Filed: 10/10/2003
Group Art Unit: 3654
Examiner: Langdon, Evan H.
Title: TRACTION ENHANCED CONTROLLED PRESSURE
FLEXIBLE FLAT TERMINATION DEVICE

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This paper is responsive to the Final Office Action mailed on November 23, 2007.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application.

The rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102
based on the *Nichols* reference
must be withdrawn

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 22, 23 and 26-27 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the *Nichols* reference. There is no *prima facie* case of anticipation. First, the *Nichols* reference is not directed to an elevator arrangement nor one that would be considered compatible with an elevator arrangement. One skilled in the art clearly recognizes a difference between an elevator system and suspending a load in an elevator system on the one hand and a climbing rope having a rope grabber device as disclosed in the *Nichols* reference, on the other hand.